

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13 with the following:

According to a variant, the polymer can have a ~~molecular mass~~ weight average molecular weight ranging between  $10^4$  and  $10^7$  daltons and a proportion of hydrophobic units Hb ranging between 0.5 and 60%.

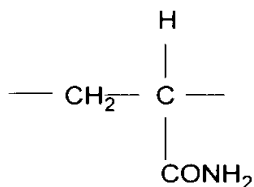
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 with the following:

The polymer according to the invention can be selected from the group consisting of:

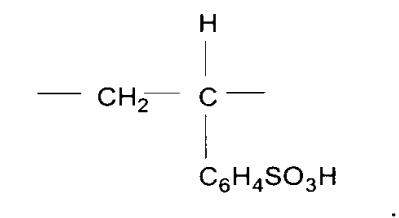
- HMPAM where R5 is H and Z1 is CONH<sub>2</sub>, R'5=CH<sub>3</sub>, Z2 is COOR'I with R'1=C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>19</sub>, and
- ~~— S1, S2 where Pa is H and Z1 is CONH<sub>2</sub>, R'5'H and Z2 is C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H,~~
- Hbl where Pa is H, Z1 is COOH, R'5 is H and Z2 is COOR' 1 with R'I is C<sub>4</sub>.

After the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 and before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, please add the following:

The polymer according to the invention may also be S1, S2 having units of



and



Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22 with the following:

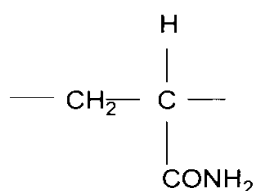
The mineral filler can consist of silica whose grain size ranges distribution range is between 5 and 200  $\mu\text{m}$  and microsilica whose grain size ranges distribution range is between 0.1 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 6, line 14 through page 7, line 3 with the following:

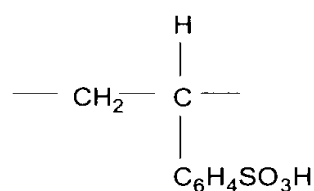
- **HMPAM**: acrylamide (Hy)/nonyl methacrylate (Hb) copolymer, according to the description above, with  $R_5=\text{H}$ , Z1 is  $\text{CONH}_2$ ,  $R'_5=\text{CH}_3$ , Z2 is  $\text{COOR}'_1$  with  $R'_1=\text{C}_9\text{H}_{19}$ ; it can have a ~~molecular mass~~ weight average molecular weight of about ~~8406~~  $8 \cdot 10^6$  daltons and a hydrophobe (Hb) proportion ranging between 0.5 and 1.5 %;

- **S1, S2**: acrylamide (~~Hy~~)/styrene sulfonate (~~Hb~~) copolymers, branched or not, ~~according to the description above, where  $R_5$  is H, Z 1 is  $\text{CONH}_2$ ,  $R_{45}=\text{H}$ , Z2 is~~

~~$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  having units of~~



and



and having a molar ratio of about 50/50 and a ~~molar mass~~ weight average molecular weight ranging between 500,000 and  $5 \cdot 10^6$  daltons. S1 is not branched, S2 is branched. The branching agent used is N,N' methylene bis acrylamide MBA;

- Hb1: acrylic acid (Hy)/butyl acrylate (Hb) copolymer, where R5 is H, Z1 is COOH, R'5 is H and Z2 is COOR'1 with R'1 being C4, comprising about 80 % acrylate acrylic acid units, and ~~of molecular mass~~ a weight average molecular weight ranging between  $10^4$  and  $5 \cdot 10^4$  daltons.